



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*A*s I begin to write this message to you I am 31,000 feet above sea level and over Canadian territory. I say as I begin, because I know it will take me longer to write this than the time the battery in my computer will last.

It has been a while since I last wrote to you and many changes have occurred in our region since my last letter. But before I enter into providing you information on the region first, allow me to wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous new year. Yes, I know I am three months late, but the sincerity of this wish is just as sincere as if I had said it in January. I also want to thank each of you for the fantastic work you do and for maintaining our region a leader in International Services.

The new year brings for all of us new opportunities and challenges as well. But knowing the caliber of personnel this region has I have no doubts we will not only meet those challenges, but surpass the expectations.

I will now briefly try to explain what is happening on each of our areas:

Canada:

As you all know, Canada became part of our region last year and as of now we have opened the area office in Ottawa and the pre-clearance activities in the airports of Vancouver and Montreal. The airport of Toronto is scheduled to open within the next two months. However, to start setting up the office and hiring of personnel for Toronto we are in the process of bringing one of our experienced officers from the Caribbean on a temporary assignment to begin the process.

Mr. Mark Knez, the area director for Canada has been working very closely with Mr. Tom Billak, port director for Vancouver and Mr. Bruce Lewke, port director for Montreal in getting operations in these two airports. My congratulations to all three for the fantastic work they have done and I am honored to have them as part of our team.

Santo Domingo:

Area director, Ms. Carolyn Cohen, reported to her new position in December of 2000 and even before she had a place to live she was already involved in solving issues for her area. I am proud to have Ms. Cohen's support for this part of our region. I also want to thank her family for allowing her to go to work before she had a home

for them.

I also want to welcome to our region Dr. Richard Pacer. Dr. Pacer is the Classical Swine Fever Program Director, and he is located at the area office in Santo Domingo. Dr. Pacer reported permanently to Santo Domingo late last fall. He has been busy setting up the classical Swine Fever Program and negotiating with his counterparts on matters related to this program. Rich, as he is known, brings to our region a wealth of experience in cooperative programs as well as extensive knowledge on animal health issues. Rich, all of us from the North America and Caribbean Region welcome you and wish you the very best.

Ms. Helena Gomez, also stationed in Santo Domingo has been working long hours and weekends setting up her pre-inspection program at the airports in Santo Domingo and at the ferry terminal. She hopes to begin airport activities sometime in April. Last December I visited Helena's program and I can only tell you I wish I had 1/8th of the energy she has. With her enthusiasm and energy, Helena will have this program functioning by this summer. I thank Helena for all her hard work and dedication. I know, this has been a very difficult program to establish because of all the government changes in Santo Domingo as well as of all the changes within our own agency.

Jamaica:

Mr. Arturo Flores continues to do a fantastic job in Jamaica. He has been instrumental in getting fungicides approved for use in Yams from Jamaica. He was requested by his official counterparts to serve as the chair person on the committee that worked on studies for fungicide approval. I need to mention that during Mr. Flores temporary Assignment to the Regional Office a year or so ago, he developed a work plan for the pre-inspection of agricultural products for the HEB supermarkets in the State of Texas. This pre-inspection project has become a reality and the work plan he developed is being implemented. Good work Arturo, and thank you.

Bahamas:

Mr. Gary Timmons and Mr. Chris Cobbs continue to clear thousands of passengers at both sites and confiscate prohibited items. Mr. Cobbs, has established an excellent working relationship with his sister agencies and counterparts which it was so badly needed at this port. Thank you, Chris and hope to have the honor of working with you at the Regional Office before too long.

Mr. Gary Timmons has been instrumental in the work being done for detection of fruit flies on the island. He has provided the expertise as well as some of the supplies needed to carry out this activity.

He has also provided the opportunity for Mr. Chris Cobbs to become involved at the Embassy in Nassau and present information from his port to the ambassador on a regular basis.

Bermuda:

Ms Carol Russell arrived in Bermuda last year full of energy and ready to start making changes.

Besides her responsibilities at her port Ms. Russell is heavily involved in the pest detection group for Plant Protection and Quarantine and this group has come already for dozens of work plans that deal with new initiatives on how to deal with pest detections. Ms. Russell spent the month of March working with us at the regional office. I hope that this experience was of value to her because the support she provided to both, the plant and animal departments was of enormous value. All of us that worked with you. Carol, want to express our gratitude for all your help while in Mexico City.

Aruba:

Mr. Jose Crespo opened the port of Aruba about a year ago. Since then he has hire and trained his personnel, set up compliance agreements with different businesses providing services to the airlines set up his inspection facility and in

general has established all the activities for a smooth operation. Mr. Crespo's skills on negotiations was a key in convincing American Airlines to provide him with a much needed x-ray machine for his port. This is a real success that has saved the region approximately \$50,000 dollars. I congratulate Mr. Crespo on this success and encourage him to continue being an example to all his employees and many of us at the region. I also thank him for the six weeks he spent at the regional office providing his support and expertise. The long hours he spent working on developing agendas and talking points for both, the binational meeting and the USDA/SAGARPA retreat resulted in very successful meetings with many agreements reached. All of us at the regional office thank you and hope to have the opportunity to work with you again.

Haiti:

If there is one person in our region that we must recognize for his hard work and many accomplishments it is Mr. Kelan Evans. Mr. Evans works under very difficult situations and several times in the last year he has been placed on alert to evacuate the country because of political turmoil. His dedication to his program is something to be commended and I take my hat off to him. In my opinion Kelan has put his safety in jeopardy in order to carry out his program activities. Not once has he complained or requested support. He has made changes in his program and is working with the mango industry to make the changes long lasting. Kelan, my respect and admiration are with you always.

On the second part of this letter I will cover the areas in Mexico, IDS and Animal Health. I do not say good bye, but until next time. May the Lord be with each one of you and your families.

Sincerely,

Elba Quintero



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

With the beginning of the XXI century, we are confronted with new challenges and opportunities for building sprit de corps in this Region.

A lot of events and issues have happened since the last edition of our “NACR Highlights” bulletin (August 2000). Here we can only include a summary of the issues.

We want to offer you an apology for the delay in publication of this issue of NACR Highlights. Since there were many problems involved with publishing monthly, it has been decided this bulletin will be published every three months. We are inviting all employees to participate with articles from their area. Each volume is going to be assigned on rotational bases to one of the Areas.

Bellow you can see the list for the following numbers:

- April issue will be done by Area III.
- July's edition will be done by Caribbean (DR) and the
- October number will be done by Canada and the
- January 2002 by Area I (Hermosillo).

The information should be submitted by the 1st of the assigned month. For example on January 1 for the January edition. We're still looking for a permanent name for our quarterly report. The person submitting a title, which is selected by the editorial board, will receive a prize.

The quarterly bulletins are going to concentrate mainly on issues related to the area that develops that issue, but we will continue including some regional issues. The editions may include articles on history, geography, agricultural practices, etc. of the area; trade issues; or features about individuals working in the area. Literary pieces and poetry are acceptable, but limericks will be closely scrutinized.

Please, accept our sincere good wishes for this new century and year!



REGIONAL ISSUES

Supervisory Training Held in Mexico City

NACR hosted a group of 30 trainers and trainees for the Managing Performance and Conduct for Experienced Supervisors training course during the week of October 29 at the Bristol Hotel in Mexico City. Attendees included Foreign Service Officers from NACR, Screwworm and Central America Region, and the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication Program. The trainers included Winanne Kreger, Shelley Pree, Frieda Skaggs, Angel Cielo, and Frank Vollmerhausen.



Supervisory Training Held in Mexico City



NACR Regional Leadership Team Meeting Held in Valle de Bravo

The North America and Caribbean Region held its annual Regional Meeting at the Avandaro Hotel in Valle de Bravo, Mexico from November 6 to November 8. In attendance for the region were all Foreign Service Officers assigned to the Region and FSN representatives from Uruapan, Mexico; Matamoros, Mexico; and Mexico City. Guest speakers included Joan Sills, Dave Reeves (PPQ-Preclearance) and Chuck Schwalbe (PPQ-ODA). The meeting agenda included post updates, regional policy statements and a lively discussion of preclearance and pre departure inspection issues.



NACR Regional Leadership Team Meeting



New Name and functions for the Agricultural Ministry of Mexico

On November 30, 2000, SAGAR published in the Official Gazette the rule that establish that the name for the Former “Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia y Desarrollo Rural” (SAGAR) would change to “Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación” (SAGARPA)

In english it could be: Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food.

New SAGARPA Appointments

On December 11, 2000, Javier Usabiaga Arroyo, new Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food appointed the following persons: Victor Villalobos Arambula, Sub-secretary for Agriculture and Livestock; Antonio Ruiz, Sub-Secretary for Rural Development; Juan Carlos Cortez, Sub-Secretary of Planning; and, Jeronimo Ramos Saenz, Sub-Secretary for Fisheries. Also there were appointed: Javier Trujillo, Chief Director of the National Commission for Animal and Plant Health (He is the taking the position formally held by Dr. Fernando Contreras); Jorge Hernandez Baeza, General Director for Plant Health He is the taking the position formally held by Dr. Luis Alberto Aguirre); Juan Garza Ramos, General Director for Animal Health (He is the taking the position formally held by Dr. Angel Omar Flores), and Jorge Leyva Vazquez, General Director for Phyto-Zoo-Sanitary Inspection (He is taking the position that was formally held by Ing. Jorge Cardenas). NACR office has began contacts with the new Mexican officers handling plant and animal health activities.

New USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

President Clinton announced on December 8, 2000 his intent to nominate Islam A. “Isi” Siddiqui as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dr. Islam A. Siddiqui, of Davis, California, has served as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, focusing on the coordination and development of the USDA’s agricultural trade policy since 1999 Previously. Dr. Siddiqui was Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, dealing with sanitary and phytosanitary issues in international trade and agricultural marketing from 1997 to 1999, Before joining the USDA. Dr. Siddiqui worked at the California

Department of Food and Agriculture for 28 years as the Director for the Division of Plant Industry. Dr Siddiqui was responsible for the plant pest prevention programs in California. He worked closely with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in resolving a number of agricultural export problems with China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union member nations.

Dr. Siddiqui received his BS in Plant Protection from Uttar Pradesh Agricultural University in Pantnagar, India, and an M.S. and Ph.D in Plant Pathology from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

The Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the USDA provides leadership in the programs governing the inspection and grading of meats, grains, produce and poultry; develops effective and efficient marketing programs for domestic food and fiber; and manages veterinary services, plant protection and quarantine efforts. Additionally, the Under Secretary provides general direction over the programs and functions at the Agricultural Marketing Service, **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**, and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

“Excellence in Government 2000”

From July 11, 2000 through July 13, 2000 Guadalupe Rocha and Alejandro Rivera attended the “Excellence in Government 2000: Connecting Citizens, Services and Results” conference in Washington, DC and participated with an exhibit booth from the North America and the Caribbean Region.



Alejandro Rivera, Lupe Rocha, Dan Sheesley and Dennis Barnes at the NACR exhibit booth in Washington, D.C.

PLANT HEALTH

TRADE ISSUES

Mexican Regulations on Plant Health

On July 27, SAGAR-SV published in the Official Gazette an emergency action plan to avoid the spread of brown citrus aphid (*Toxoptera citricida*) and eradicate the citrus Tristeza virus at certain areas in Mexico. SAGAR-SV established a quarantine for citrus plants and plant products in the States of Yucatan and Quintana Roo, where citrus brown aphid has been found. SAGAR also established a quarantine for plant propagative materials in the State of Baja California where Tristeza citrus virus is found. SAGAR-SV is establishing an intensive survey program for these two pests at the citrus areas in Mexico.

Celebration of the Anniversary of the Mexican Plant Health Office

On July 28, Peter Grosser represented NACR at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Plant Health office. The predecessor of the current SAGAR-SV office was created in July 9, 1900. This meeting was held at the University of Chapingo. The program included presentations on different plant health issues. Among the attendees were Luis Aguirre, Director of SAGAR-SV; Javier Trujillo and Marco Antonio Carreon former Directors of SAGAR-SV; representing Sonora Growers Committee was Antonio Obregon; Pedro Macias from SAGAR Port Inspection, and also representatives from universities and industry.

First Animal and Plant Health Week in Mexico



From October 24-26, SAGAR organized the annual IX Meeting of Mexico's Animal Health Council (CONASA) and the VII Meeting of Mexico's Plant Health Council (CONACOFI) meetings in Puebla, Mexico with attendance of representatives from SAGAR, Mexican Industry and research institutions. Agustin Ramos represented APHIS/IS/NACR at the CONACOFI seminars and Drs. Bob Bokma (APHIS Veterinary Services) and Alejandro Perera APHIS/IS/NACR, attended the CONASA's. Alejandro Rivera from NACR manned a booth in the exhibition hall highlighting APHIS' international

activities. APHIS/IS/NACR presented information about our Phyto-Zoosanitary activities in Mexico in various areas, including; Cooperative Programs-Exotic Animal Disease Commission, Mexfly, and animal/plant health trade issues.

New APHIS Edition Of the Phytosanitary Certificate for Mexico

On November 14, APHIS informed the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development (SAGAR) that APHIS will implement a nationwide policy regarding a new version of the phytosanitary certificate (Form 577). Furthermore, samples of the original phytosanitary certificate, and explanation of the features to combat fraudulent certificates were provided to SAGAR. Effective November 20, 2000, APHIS will issue only the July 2000 edition of the phytosanitary certificates for all U.S. origin commodities certified to Mexico. New phytosanitary certificate version is ultra-violet sensitive (security paper) and has many other tamper-resistant features. These actions are part of APHIS's efforts to address Mexico's concerns regarding the security of U.S. phytosanitary certificates.



Alejandro Rivera, Bob Bokma and Alejandro Perera at the NACR exhibit booth in Puebla, Mexico

Mexico Prohibits Table Potato from Nebraska, Arizona and Texas

On December 13, APHIS-IS Mexico office received from the Mexican SAGAR-Plant Health office (SAGAR-SV) a notification regarding prohibition for the importation of table potato from Nebraska, Arizona and Texas into Mexico. This action was taken by Mexican authorities due to the detection of Columbia root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*) and golden nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) in eleven potato shipments coming from these states.

Olive Fly Detections in the State of Sonora

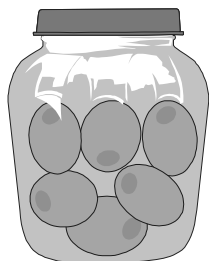
On December 11, the NACR office received a report from SAGAR-SV of the first detection of olive fruit fly in the state of Sonora. SAGAR-SV informed that they had detected three adults of the olive fruit fly during October, 2000. These specimen were captured in Champ traps.

PPQ Automated Phytosanitary Certificate System (APCS)

On December 13, APHIS-IS Regional office assisted Area I in getting information from SAGAR-PI to assist with identifying the functional and performance requirements to be incorporated into the new PPQ phytosanitary certificate system. Currently PPQ is in the process of developing an APCS that will be used for online application, issuance, tracking and management of the federal phytosanitary certificates. Area I is participating in this PPQ project.

Olive fly Appears in Mexicali

Eighteen specimens of olive fly were reported by the Baja California State Plant Health Committee. This is the first report of olive flies in the area where 40 champ traps are installed. This find adds to the 30 specimens captured in the Caborca area of Sonora several hundred miles south.



Regional Director Meets With the new General Director of Plant Health

On December 19, 2000 Drs. Elba Quintero and Theresa Boyle, from the USDA, APHIS, IS North American and Caribbean Region, and William Brant, with the Foreign Agriculture Service, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Jorge Luis Leyva Vazquez, the new General Director of Phytozoosanitary Inspection, and Pedro Martinez Uriegas, the new Director for Ports, Airports and Borders, for the Mexican Department of Agriculture. We discussed the role of the APHIS Regional office as well as the type of working relationship we would like to have. Dr. Leyva also brought up a border problem involving falsified certificates and misuse of official government seals.

ANIMAL HEALTH TRADE ISSUES

USAHA Meeting

Oct.22-26, Drs. Elba Quintero, and Theresa Boyle from the North American and Caribbean Region (NACR) attended the 104rd annual meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) in Birmingham, AL. It was attended by government officials, scientists, industry representatives, and producers. It was a chance to meet with everyone to discuss concerns involving different programs, and disease situations. At the top of these concerns were: West Nile Virus; Brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park; Australian Cattle; and the APHIS final rule for Tuberculosis. During this time the North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank and the Bi-National TB and Brucellosis Committee (BNC) held their meetings.

Tripartite Foot And Mouth Disease Exercise

November 6-10, 2000, USDA-APHIS in conjunction with the governments of Mexico, and Canada conducted an exercise simulating an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) for the purpose of emergency planning. Dr. Theresa Boyle from USDA/APHIS/IS/NACR/Mexico participated as an observer in Mexico's headquarters offices in Mexico City. There were simulation exercises in South Texas, as well as Mexico City, Mexico, Ontario and Alberta, Canada. These exercises will serve to test our readiness in the event of a serious outbreak of an infectious animal disease.



Final report of the Newcastle Disease Outbreak

The Exotic Animal Diseases Commission (CPA) issued a final report of the emergency activities conducted in La Laguna area due to the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak. Last clinical case reported was on May 11. A total of 92 farms (out of the 93) that were positive to END were repopulated with 13,087,787 birds. On November 11, finalized the 4th. Monitoring program, with a cumulative number of 890 commercial farms sampled representing 57,216 samples; 11,351 organ samples, 30,885 swabs, and 13,475 paper filter tests. Since August 26, SAGAR authorized the movement of poultry meat to END free areas (Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon and Quintana Roo) from farms that were not affected during the END outbreak. From July 21 to November 11, 13,646 non vaccinated birds were used as sentinels in 66 farms that were not affected with END, with a total inventory of 6,136,366 birds. Finally, on October 2, SAGAR started using 16,950 sentinel birds in 65 farms that were affected with END virus, with an inventory of 8,757,624 birds.



Regional Director Meets with the new General Director of Animal Health

On December 19, 2000 Drs. Elba Quintero and Theresa Boyle, from the USDA, APHIS, IS North American and Caribbean Region, and William Brant, with the Foreign Agriculture Service, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Juan Garza Ramos, the new General Director of Animal Health with the Mexican Department of Agriculture. They discussed the role of the APHIS Regional office as well the Exotic Animal Disease Commission and the North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank.

Texas White Tail Deer Exported To Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Mexican importers requested the assistance of APHIS IS NACR office to import 1,000 head of white tail deer from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department into Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. Due to changes in the U.S. Tuberculosis Regulations SAGAR issued a waiver to exclude the statement. The first shipment of 50 deer arrived in Mexico on December 15, 2000.



MEXICAN AVOCADO EXPORT PROGRAM

Work Plan for Mexican Avocados to the U.S.



On August 8, the APHIS IS Mexico Regional Office and the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development-Plant Health (SAGAR-SV) signed the updated systems approach work plan for the exportation of Mexican Hass avocados to the United States. The document establishes the requirements for the exportation of Hass avocados from five municipalities in the Mexican State of Michoacan to 19 States in the United States and the District of Columbia during the months of November through February.

The Annual Avocado Program Meeting

The annual avocado program meeting took place on September fourteenth in Riverdale, MD, at the USDA office in order to review projections for the export season 2000-2001. The participants of this meeting were: Jeff Grode, USDA, APHIS, PPQ; Scott Sanner, USDA, APHIS, PPQ; Julio Vila, USDA, APHIS, PPQ; Alberto Cisneros, USDA, APHIS, IS, Scott Wood, USDA, APHIS, PPQ; Joe Messineo, USDA, APHIS, PPQ. By International Services, Alberto Cisneros, addressed topics such as orchard certification, packing houses, documentation and record keeping, communication with PPQ and projections. There were 8,345.21 hectares surveyed at this time represent the 84.59% of the grand total proposed surface for this season. Two of the five municipalities are covered and surveyed, the work teams assigned to these municipalities are going to support in the municipality of Tancitaro.

Avocado program personnel attend the Area III annual meeting

Avocado program personnel traveled to Guadalajara to attend the Area III annual meeting. The avocado program review was held during September 26-28 in Uruapan. This review consisted of an initial meeting, field visits, as well as quarantine check point visits. The participants were: Elba Quintero, Regional Director (USDA, APHIS, IS), Peter Grosser (USDA, APHIS, IS), from USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Joe Cavey, Jeff Grode and Wayne Burnett, Jeff Hillard (CDFA), Herb Murphy (CAC),

Ron Campbell (Mexican Avocado Industry), Luis Cervantes (Avocado Seed Moth Specialist from the Insitituto de Ecologia), Francisco Diaz (Fruit Fly Specialist from the Insitituto de Ecologia), Jose Gerardo Perfino (Comite de Sanidad Vegetal), Cecilio Zamora (SAGAR), Jose Guerrero (SAGAR), Santos Leal (SEDAGRO), Miguel Angel Garcia (Comite Estatal de Sanidad Vegetal). The meeting and all activities were coordinated by Area III Director Yvette Perez and Avocado Program Coordinator Alberto Cisneros. Along with representatives from industry, State, SAGAR, academia and PPQ.

Mexico Proposes Formal Consultation on Avocados at NAFTA

On October 2, Herminio Blanco, the Mexican Minister of Commerce, sent a letter to Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative, requesting formal consultation on Mexican avocados under NAFTA. Mexico complains that the delay by the corresponding U.S. authorities of the recognition of avocado pest free zones constitutes a trade barrier contrary to the provision of Section B, Chapter VII of NAFTA. The United States is obligated under NAFTA to propose a meeting within 30 days.

Avocado Consultations with Mexico

Trade officials from Mexico (SECOFI) have asked for consultations on Monday, November 13, 2000, to discuss their concerns that APHIS' review of Mexico's request to expand the number of U.S. states eligible to receive Mexican avocados is taking too long, and are in violation of the NAFTA-SPS principles. Attending for APHIS is Alan Green, Plant Protection (PPQ), Wayne Burnett, PPQ, Eric Nichols, International Services, Trade Support Team and Foreign Agricultural Service, and the United States Trade Representatives (USTR) representatives. USTR will lead the consultation, which is being held at USTR's headquarters in Washington, DC.

APPLE EXPORT PROGRAM

U.S. Apples and Pears Held at Manzanillo, Mexico

On October 6, APHIS-IS Regional office negotiated with SAGAR-Port Phyto-zoosanitary Inspection the release of seven containers of apples and four containers of pears held at the

maritime port of Manzanillo, Colima. The fruit was being held because the phytosanitary certificates apparently have different colors and could be falsified. APHIS-IS Mexico office verified the authenticity of the above mentioned phytosanitary certificates with Washington Department of Agriculture in Yakima, WA. Consignments were valued at over \$180,000 dollars including demurrage at the maritime port because of the delay.

U.S. Apples Detained at the Border

On December 12, NACR Regional office was advised by the U.S. apple industry from Yakima, WA about the detection of seven apples shipments at the port of entry of Mexicali. The shipments were held because the phytosanitary certificates had some missing information. Also, there were an other six apple shipments coming to the border that presented the same problem. After negotiations between APHIS-IS Mexico and the Mexican Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development Port Inspection (SAGAR-PI), the shipments were released. Consignments were valued at over \$210,000 dollars including demurrage at the border because of the delay.



HERMOSILLO AREA

Eclosion lab facility in Tijuana moves

The fruitfly eclosion facility in Tijuana has moved to a new location outside the airport. This was done successfully without interrupting the sterile fly release over the area. During the week of the move, diet preparations and packaging took a temporary home at the office in central Tijuana. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is in the process of donating two trailer homes that eventually will house all of our activities in Tijuana and save the rent that we are paying for our office space. Our staff in Tijuana and Sergio Sanchez showed a great team effort in achieving this huge task flawlessly.

(Week ending July 21, 2000)

Pierce Disease Vector Insects Found in Baja Norte

The plant health state committee of Baja California Norte reports that they have confirmed Pierce's Disease in tahe Valle de Guadalupe, an important grape production site. The vector leafhoppers known as sharpshooters have also been found and preventive measures are being implemented in the area. *(Week ending July 21, 2000)*

Meeting Of The International Cotton Pest Work Committee

From November 8- 9, 2000, the annual meeting of the International Cotton Pest Work Committee between the United States and Mexico was held in Mazatlan, Mexico. Regional reports on cotton pests in the Mexican States of Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Sonora and Sinaloa were presented. There were also reports presented from the programs in Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Arkansas. Agustin Ramos, Ruben Tapia and Alfredo de la Torre from APHIS/IS/NACR attended this meeting.

German Chickens Through Houston TX

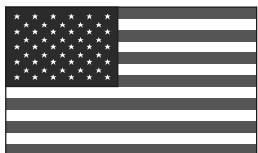
Area I office assisted the Indian River Jerome Mezoro Company in Hermosillo in obtaining a release from quarantine for 23,000 chickens that transited Houston, TX on their way to Hermosillo as day old chicks. The importers were not able to present the original USDA permit to import to the United States, which the local authorities wanted. Area Director Tom Andre contacted Veterinary Services to verify a copy of the original permit and this was accepted by the local officials. (January 02, 2001)

Olive fly Appears in Mexicali

A total of 18 specimens of olive fly were reported by the Baja California State Plant Health Committee. This is the first report of olive flies in the area where 40 champ traps are installed. This find adds to the 30 specimens captured in the Caborca area of Sonora several hundred miles south. (January 02, 2001)

Paisano Inspection Program

To support the agriculture inspections at the Mexican border during the return of many vehicles back to the United States, the Estación Don quarantine checkpoint in southern Sonora, where APHIS/IS participates, will implement the "paisano" program for the third year. This program consists of thorough inspections for agriculture products in those vehicles that will be returning to the U.S. These vehicles are marked with a sticker in a visible place. When they arrive at the international border of these marked vehicles are only subjected to random quality control checks. The Arizona-California state border also recognizes these stickers and this saves them inspection work. (January 02, 2001)



Boll Weevil Program Activities End For The Season

The activities in northern Chihuahua boll weevil program finished for the season with a total of 41 captures in the program area. The program ended the year operating 3,378 traps and two additional temporary inspectors. In addition, this year the GPS system was implemented and our staff of four are now ready for next season. This program acts as an extension of the one operating in the Texas El Paso area. (January 02, 2001)



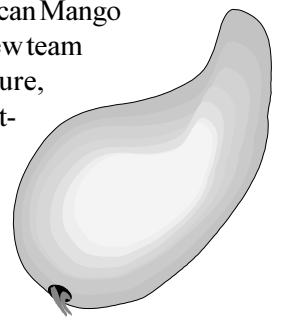
Training in Tijuana, BC. Mexico

A two-day course in communications and personnel relations was held in Tijuana with the participation of Area I personnel from La Paz, Ensenada and Tijuana. Another one-day course in Ensenada was attended by the Tijuana supervisors on Pierce's Disease and its vector the glassy winged sharp shooter. (January 02, 2001)

MEXICAN MANGO EXPORT PROGRAM

Recommendations by APHIS for the Mexican Mango Program

On August 9, NACR sent a copy of the findings and recommendations for the Mexican Mango Treatment and Preclearance Review team to the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development-Plant Health (SAGAR-SV). This report was jointly prepared by APHIS, California Department of Food and Agriculture and Arizona Department of Agriculture personnel. One



section of the report deals with short and long term recommendations that the group believes are necessary to fine-tune and strengthen the overall program. APHIS requested immediate implementation in this current shipping season of the short term recommendations and implementation of the longer term recommendations during the next season. The report recommends that the hydrocooling of fruit immediately after treatment must be stopped until research demonstrates that it has no deleterious effect on the efficacy of the hot water treatment.

Mango Transfer Agreement was Signed

On September 18, 2000, APHIS-PPQ and the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development-Plant Health (SAGAR-SV) signed the Agreement for the transfer of APHIS inspection services in the treatment and certification program for mangoes shipped from Mexico to the United States. The document states that SAGAR-SV shall gradually take on the technical and operational functions of plant health verification that APHIS-IS is now supervising. Both agencies agreed that mango verification activities in Mexico shall be gradually transferred from APHIS-IS to SAGAR-SV over a period of three years. The agreement was distributed to the interested parties.

The year 2000 mango season is over and the following represents the total of the program export statistics: *(Sept. 25/2000)*

PROGRAM STATISTICS

SEASON 2000

PACKING FACILITIES CERTIFIED:	63
CLOSED PACKING FACILITIES:	63
PACKING FACILITIES OPERATING:	0
PPQ 203'S ISSUED:	8,627
BOXES PRECLEASED:	37,901,491
KGS. EXPORTED :	170,556,708

Larvae findings: Four live larvae, 37 dead larvae.

The annual Area III meeting

The annual Area III meeting took place in Guadalajara September 28 through the 30th. The agenda included a general review of the Mango season, where all parties involved, APHIS, Ports of Entry, Development Center and Preclearance Staff, also Industry-EMEX and importers, expressed their point of view of how the season and different events developed. All Area III personnel was present except for the inspectors that are on TDY in Brazil. Elba Quintero, Regional Director met with Area III at this time, and shared information of NACR activities and projections. Other guests were representing ports of entry, included Diane Vlasik from Pharr, TX. and Eloy Cortez from Nogales, AZ, from Oxford Methods Development Center, Josie Cooley; from EMEX, Tomas Paulin, President, Armando Celis, Treasurer, Jaime Lopez Cuadras, General Manager, Claudia Muratalla, Business Manager, Rosy Perez, Juan de Dios Barba and, Ricardo Aispuro from the Quality and Commercialization Section, and representing the importers and brokers members was George Mendez.

An award ceremony was held where several employees were distinguished with certificates and recognitions under several categories such as Team Work, Initiative, Professional Development, Availability, Excellence, and the Area III Field Inspector of the Year for their performance in the Area III Programs, Mango, Citrus and Avocado, season 2000.



Area III Assists South America Region

Three inspectors from Area III were requested as TDY's for the Mango Program in Ecuador and two more for the Mango Program in Peru. They will be there from December to January and February of 2001. (*Week ending October 20, 2000*)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

From September 14 through September 16 the Area Office participated with a booth in the "Expo USA 2000" at the "Great American Food Pavilion" that was held in Santo Domingo.



NACR Regional Director Elba Quintero and Associate Deputy Administrator of PPQ, Chuck Schwalbe, visited the Caribbean Area Office in Santo Domingo on December 5. Together with AD Carolyn Cohen and OIC Helena Gomez, they had a series of meetings with Embassy officials: Harry Blanchette, Admin. Officer; Sheila Hoban, Cultural Affairs Officer (Public Affairs Section), and DCM Janice Jacobs (on 12/6). They met at the Ministry of Agriculture building with Egelio Jaquez, Secretary of Agriculture; Jesus De los Santos, Sub-Secretary of Agriculture for Planning; Isidro Bienvenido Javarez Cruz, Director of Plant Health; Dr. Reynaldo Pena de la Cruz, Director of Animal Health; Dr. Vanderlinder, IICA, and eight other Ministry officials.

Topics of discussion included the Passenger Pre-Inspection Program, a request to reestablish a commodity Preclearance Program, hog cholera in Hispaniola, hopes to build a Regional Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, future needs for a laboratory to test for pesticide residues, animal and plant health infrastructure building, Dominican agricultural trade with the US, Europe, and Japan, and interest in exporting Dominican mangoes to the United States. OIC Gomez provided the Secretary with various documents including an import permit application, preclearance program request guidelines, the protocol for mango hot water treatment (HWT) program, generic mango work plan, and PPQ Treatment Manual HWT chapters. The final stop of the day was to the Ferry Terminal where both the automobile and passengers' operations areas of the Passenger Pre-Inspection Pilot Program (to Mayaguez, PR) were observed.

On December 6, RD Quintero, OIC Gomez and AD Cohen met with Dr. Dilecio Vanderlinder, IICA, at the Area Office to discuss the history of the Hog Cholera outbreak on Hispaniola, IICA involvement as a facilitator between the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, budget issues and the 'Project for Building Sustainable National Agricultural Health Systems in Haiti and the Dominican Republic'.

Breakfast With The Ambassador: AD Carolyn T Cohen was

invited to the Ambassador's residence for a working breakfast. Attendees at the breakfast included the Ambassador Charles Manatt, DCM Janice Jacobs, FAS Attache Kevin Smith, and AD Cohen from the American side. Dominican Republic attendees included Secretary of Agriculture Egelio Jaquez, Dr. Jesus De los Santos, Sub-Secretary for Planning, Dr. Rafael Ortiz Quezada, Sub-Secretary for Investigation, Extension and Training, Jose Fabelo, Sub-Secretary for Production, and Nelson Garcia, Sub-Secretary for Personnel and Political



Helena Gomez, Richard Pacer, Ambassador Charles Manatt and the FAS Attache Kevin Smith at the NACR exhibit booth in Santo Domingo.



FAS and APHIS personnel and their relatives at the NACR exhibit booth in Santo Domingo.

Affairs Topics of interest to APHIS included: requests for mango exports to the United States, the owner of 29 supermarkets is moving to DR to purchase produce for export, a potential project with Spain to build greenhouses for high-quality produce for export, requests to reinstate a Commodity Preclearance Program, and future meetings with SEA to discuss these topics further.

Meeting with SEA 1/10: OIC Helena Gomez, Veterinary Attache Rich Pacer and Area Director Carolyn Cohen attended a meeting met at SEA on 1/10/01 with Sub-secretary De los Santos, Sub-Secretary Ortiz Quezada, Animal and Plant Health Section Heads, other SEA staff, and Dr. Vanderlinder from IICA. They reviewed the Cooperative Agreement on the Passenger Pre- Inspection Program (PIIP). SEA committed to a time-line for completion of a series of tasks, including writing a letter to the Airport Commission, selection of the counterpart, selection and interviews for inspectors. APHIS also informed SEA of alternatives they might consider for mango exports, such as juice, frozen, pureed, sliced, immersed in brine and suggested they might wish to test the varieties of mango that they are considering for the U.S. market to ensure they can withstand the treatment successfully. They also discussed the need for a trapping program and Pest Detection survey, as part of a Preclearance Program, and to protect their own crops.

HAITI

Mango Facility Field Visit

Regional Director Elba Quintero and Alejandro Rivera, Information Specialist, visited Haiti from September 19, 2000 through September 22, 2000. Officer-In-Charge Kelan Evans took this opportunity to visit a few of the mango facilities with them. Dr. Quintero suggested the idea of starting trap lines in the northern sections of Haiti where the mangoes begin to be infested towards the end of each season. Mr. Evans is preparing a meeting with the exporters to discuss the logistics.



Kelan Evans and Elba Quintero during their visit to a few of the mango facilities.

Dried Mangoes Export Program

Officer-In-Charge Kelan Evans had a conversation with Mr. Eric Bertheau about possible contacts for funding his project with dried mangoes. Mr. Evans had been in contact with Mr. Bertheau several months back to discuss contacts within the FDA. Mr. Bertheau hopes to have his small enterprise up and running by next May. *(Week ending October 6, 2000)*

Beginning of new Mango Season

OIC Kelan Evans met with all the permanent FSN's, on October 20th, to discuss the beginning of the new mango season. It appears that there will be two facilities that will be recertifying around the end of October. They will be treating and sending green mangoes.

Promotion

Ms. Raphaëlle Saint-Phard has been promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant, FSN-7/2 to the APHIS Officer-in-Charge. She is now responsible for assisting in the planning and administrative management of cooperative agreements and appropriated funds accounts, reconciling budget and expenditures tracked on the informal ledger with complimentary financial information received from the U.S. Embassy and USDA National Finance Center, and providing program analysis. *(December 22, 2000)*

Classical Swine Fever brochures

Mr. Tyrone Kemp, USDA Foreign Affairs Specialist, shipped to our office a total of 20 boxes of Classical Swine Fever brochures. These brochures, written in Creole and French languages, titled "**Classical Swine Fever, still a threat**" offer information on the disease, its symptoms, its transmission and on the measures to take by swine producers in case of epizooty. *(December 22, 2000)*



FREEPORT

USDA Awards Foreign Service Nationals Employees and Bahamian Counterparts

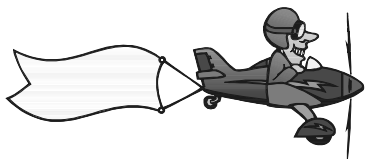
The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Technicians assigned to Passenger Preclearance at Freeport Grand Bahamas Airport were awarded Bonus Awards and Certificates of Appreciation at an Award Recognition Luncheon on December 8, 2000. Pearl McKinney, Fern Adderely, and Earlene Woodruff-Smith received Performance Awards for Outstanding Performance of all major duties as Foreign Service National, PPQ Technicians. Kathy Saunders received the Customer Service Award for outstanding contributions, providing good customers service in passenger preclearance. Brodwynn Roberts received an Extra Effort Award for team participation, providing excellent customer service and enforcing preclearance regulations at the Grand Bahamas Airport during fiscal year 2000.

Melanie Williams, Supervisor for the Bahamas Department of Agriculture received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her cooperation with the USDA Fruit Fly Survey Program. Miriam Edgecombe, technician for the Bahamas Department of Agriculture received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition for participation with USDA Fruit Fly Survey Program in Freeport Grand Bahamas during fiscal year 2000. The USDA Fruit Fly Survey Program is conducted cooperatively with the Bahamas Department of Agriculture to survey wild fruit fly activity on Freeport Grand Bahamas. The data collected assist USDA in enforcing preclearance regulations and provide information to the Bahamas Department of Agriculture for local farmers.

ARUBA

Continental Airlines Inaugurated Non-Stop Service To JFK:

Operating four times per week, Martinair will commence twice weekly service Aruba-Miami-Amsterdam in April 2001. Both flights might increase if volume demands. Martinair will be the first European carrier to use the Preclearance Facility.



BERMUDA

Bermuda Office Upgrade

In October 2000, the office in Bermuda was upgraded with desks, a computer station, and a bookshelf for the staff. To celebrate the event, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held where they opened their doors to airport staff to say "Welcome".

Carol Russell presented the staff with their individual names for their desk. The staff cut the ribbon. A cake plus drinks were shared with the airport staff.

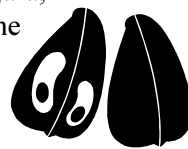


(Pictures: L to R: Marcia Manion, Christine Frith, Carol Russell)

JAMAICA

Ackee to the United States

Yvette Perez, Mexico Area Director, Guadalajara, went to Jamaica to attend the ceremony for the Official Announcement made on July 6, 2000 by U.S. Ambassador Stanley McLelland that Jamaica will be able to export ackee to United States. Ms. Perez was assigned to Jamaica when the project started and worked on it for 18 months. Now two processing companies Canco Ltd. and Ashman's Food Products Ltd. will be able to trade immediately, having satisfied FDA, food safety requirements. Not only will these companies be able to export ackee, but any other product processed in their facilities would be able to enter to U.S. under the same conditions. The Ambassador said that with the opening of the market, exports should double within two to three years, making ackee the largest agricultural export from Jamaica to the United States with a potential market of \$10 million per year. The ackee industry employs about 3,700 Jamaicans; two thirds of whom are women. It is estimated that a further 50,000



rural Jamaicans depend in directly on ackee production.

On July 7, 2000, Yvette Perez, Area III Director visited on Canco Ltd. facility with Ambassador McLelland. In his speeches Ambassador McLelland expressed his gratitude for APHIS' involvement in this project and the importance of working as a team.

NASSAU **Nassau Workforce**

Officer In Charge Gary Timmons made a selection for one of the two Plant Protection Technicians' vacancies currently in Nassau. Stacey Rolle will be starting October 22, 2000. She is a local resident with dual citizenship and currently employed with American Airlines. She will be a welcome addition to the office with her experience and contacts within the Airlines. A current APHIS employee, from the Freeport work unit is filling the second vacant position. Plant Protection Technician, Pearl McKinney will be relocating to Nassau and will join the team November 19, 2000.

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

OIC Gary Timmons accompanied the Bahamas Department of Agriculture Pink Hibiscus Mealybug survey team. The infestation at this time seems to be confined to a residential neighborhood in the interior part of New Providence Island in the City of Nassau. There were several mature Hibiscus shrubs fully infested and severely stunted. Some shrubs were in advanced stages of infestation and the crawlers had already dispersed. The full extent of the range is yet to be determined. Dr. Dale Meyerdirk, PPQ Entomologist from Riverdale, MD will be arriving in Nassau January 9, 2001 to put on a workshop to train both Bahamian agriculture officials and USDA personnel on survey and control techniques. We anticipate establishing a biological control program using parasitic wasps, *Anagyrus kamali* in January 2001. (January 02, 2001)

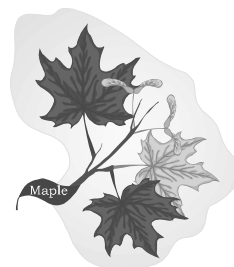
Casava and Farine pie to the U.S.

Many people from Bermuda take this favorite delicacy, which may include meat, to the United States when they go visit family and friends over the holidays. The Bermuda Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (BDAF) contacted USDA in Bermuda about making a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for television regarding the importation of these pies in to the United States and what type of meat is enterable and what type of meat is prohibited. The Minister of the Bermuda Department of Public Health (BDPH) delivered a PSA regarding the importation of casava and farine pie into the United States, which was televised on the local news station at 7:00pm. In the

announcement he addressed that chicken and turkey were enterable, but pork and beef were prohibited. Many people called the USDA/APHIS/IS office to confirm the PSA. Over the weekend, prior to Christmas Day, passengers declared the pies on their Customs Declaration and when asked by USDA/APHIS/IS employees about their knowledge of the meat, 85% of the passengers said they saw the PSA on the television and heard an announcement on the radio. USDA/APHIS/IS reported this to both the BDAF and the BDPH. It has been agreed to continue this practice of the PSA by the Minister of Public Health each year before the Christmas holiday season. (January 02, 2001)

CANADA **Ottawa**

Attache Mark E. Knez arrived at post on August 22, and was greeted by FAS office staff at the new APHIS co-location with FAS in the US Embassy Ottawa. Our office in Ottawa is co-located with FAS in the American Embassy. Mr. Knez can be reached at (613) 688-5416. (August 29, 2000)



IS Preclearance Program in Canada

On September 21, the APHIS/IS Mexico Regional office had a conference call with Mark Knez and Tom Billak, IS Canada, regarding the IS preclearance program in Canada. During the conference call the following issues were discussed: PPQ's expectations for this program, staffing, risk, responsibilities, and other operational and logistical problems. Because of the current importance of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal as hub airports and current configuration of the FIS facilities, they see the program as a total preclearance of passengers. During the discussion many questions arose and the Regional office sent them for clarification to PPQ operational staff. Also, IS requested that PPQ prepare a preliminary analysis of AQI monitoring data out of Vancouver to learn if there is enough data to accurately reflect what the risk is from there. APHIS-IS Mexico proposed a meeting to PPQ in the very near future to discuss history, expectations and direction this program is to take.

Reception For APHIS

Minister-Counselor Norval Francis hosted a reception for APHIS Attaché Mark E. Knez to announce the arrival both of Mr. Knez and of APHIS to the country. Representatives of Agriculture Canada and USDA, along with several U.S. Embassy representatives and staff, were in attendance.

EMPLOYEE NEWS:

Reporting Date Near

APHIS Port Director Bruce Lewke is traveling to his new work assignment at Montreal's Dorval Airport. Mr. Lewke will be officially reporting on Jan. 16th. Regional Administrative Officer Scott Saxe and Attache Mark E. Knez are planning to join him for introductory visits both at the airport and at the downtown U.S. consulate the following week. This will be Mr. Lewke's first assignment with International Services.

Meetings

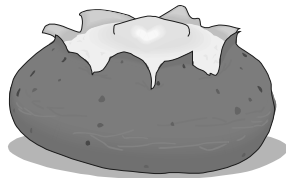
A meeting was held with David Parsons and Brad Hayter, Vancouver Airport Authority, and Port Director Thomas Billak to discuss the construction status of the new APHIS offices. Final details were worked out and the offices should be completed within two weeks.

New APHIS Personnel

Port Director Billak has completed interviewing the candidates for the PPQ Technician positions. The list of the selected candidates is being sent to the Consulate for completion of the personnel process, i.e. medical, security, etc. The new technicians were able to start work in early march.

Potato Wart Update

APHIS Attache Mark E. Knez provided updates on the status of the USDA quarantine on Prince Edward Island potatoes into the U.S. The Canadians were presented with an updated list of requirements that would allow movement of the crop into the U.S. and other Canadian provinces. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency provided a counterproposal in which APHIS felt would be inadequate to guarantee the safety of U.S. production. In light of this response, the Canadian government has requested consultations under the NAFTA agreement, which are scheduled to be held on Jan. 17, 2001. *(Week ending December 22, 2000)*



Major U.S. Seed Shipments Assisted

Attache Mark E. Knez provided guidance and assistance that resulted in the release of major U.S. seed shipments which were exported for packaging in Canada and then returned to the U.S. The pre-Christmas shipments were essential in fulfilling major Christmas orders for Michigan Bulb Company and its Canadian subsidiary Spring Garden Nurseries, and any delays at this point would have certainly threatened Holiday sales. For his actions, he received a letter of thanks from the company through U.S. Ambassador Gordon Giffin, accompanied by a complimentary note from DCM Steve Bailey. *(Week ending December 22, 2000)*

Farewell to Alejandro Perera and Laura Mundo

The Regional Headquarter Staff had a cocktail party honoring Alejandro Perera and Laura Mundo.

In January 2001, Alejandro joined the **Texas Animal Health Commission Bi-National Office**. Both Laura and Alejandro had worked 15 years for the American Embassy.

All the staff want to say GOOD LUCK! to Alejandro and Laurita we know that they are going to have a successful life.

Now you can reach Alejandro and Laurita at

Alejandro Perera:

1716 South San Marcos Street
Room 15
San Antonio, Texas 78207

1-800-658-6615

Tel. 210/224-5468

Fax 210/224-9725

Alejandro and Laurita's House:

3711 Medical Drive
Apartment 836
San Antonio, TX 78229
Tel. (210)615-9315

e-mail: laura_mundo@yahoo.com
alejandro_perera@yahoo.com



Alejandro Perera and Laura Mundo with Elba Quintero during their farewell.

New Employees:

New Animal Health Specialist in NACR

Our new Agricultural Specialist for Animal Health issues is Dr. Carmen Rodriguez. She comes to us from the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture where she was the Chief of Exportations in Animal Health. We welcome her to our office and she looks forward to working with everyone.



*Carmen
Rodriguez*

New Administrative Clerk in Ottawa

Ms. Grace Mariani was hired for the new Administrative Clerk position for APHIS IS. After conducting several interviews of the most qualified candidates, Ms. Mariani was chosen for her excellent knowledge of Embassy functions and operations, along with her ability to adapt and adjust to various Agency operations, as she had previously demonstrated through her work experience and recommendations. APHIS is happy to have her on board, and she will be a much-welcomed addition to the new APHIS operations at the US Embassy in Ottawa. She is tentatively scheduled to be on board by October 10, 2000.

New PPQ Technicians in Vancouver

During the last week of November, Ms. Mandy Small and Mellisa Morin were hired as PPQ Technician for the Vancouver Preclearance facility. Ms. Small and Ms. Morin were former PPQ Technicians at the Port of Blaine, and they will be bringing extensive experience to Vancouver. Welcome aboard!

New PPQ Technician in Bermuda

In December of 2000, APHIS welcomed Charlotte Beech, hired as an intermittent Agriculture Technician to work with the Passenger Preclearance program at the Bermuda International Airport. Her past work experience is at the U.S. Naval Base in Bermuda. She has lived in Bermuda for 29 years. Charlotte is an asset to our team of employees and we are happy to have her join us. Welcome Charlotte!.



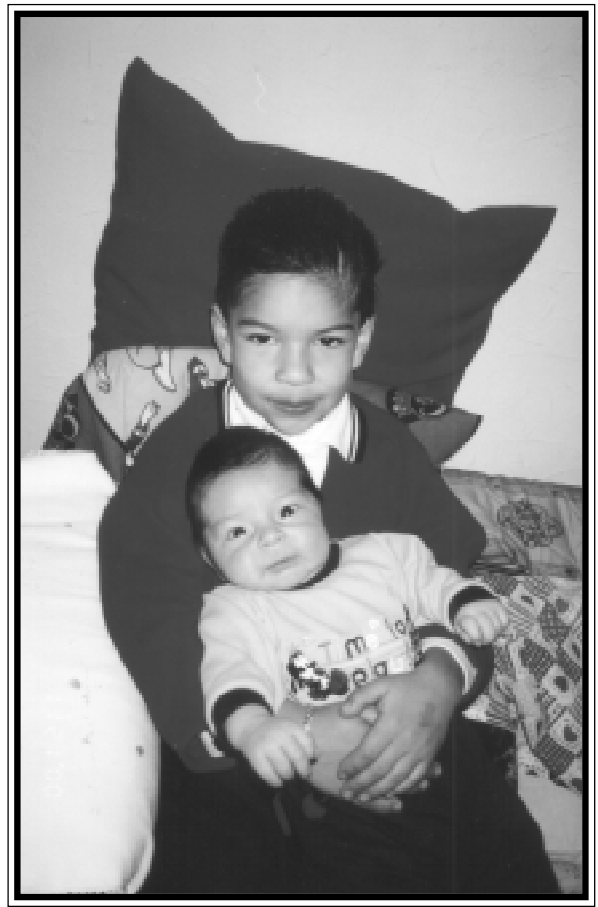
*Charlotte
Beech*

New Technicians in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico

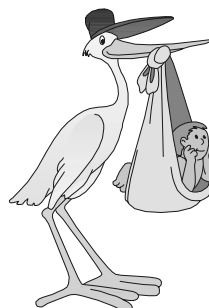
Also APHIS say welcome to Pamela Moreno Escobar and Jaime Chavez Ochoa. Pamela was hired on November 20 as Field Coordinator for the Fruit Fly Program in Mexico. Jaime was hired on November 4 as Field Inspector (Nov/2000)

3 New Babies at Region!

- On October 17, 2000 the stork delivered a strong baby (*Alan Rodrigo*) to Monica Reyes, who was 53 cm. And weighted 3.5 kgs., is Monica's second son. As you know Monica is a staff member of the NACR offices in Mexico City.



*Jonathan with his new brother
Alan Rodrigo*



- Also on October 11 Octavio Torres and his wife Laura Avila received the same visit and they received their first daughter ***Tamara Belem*** who was 50 cm. and weighted 3.2 kgs. Octavio is also a staff member of NACR offices in Mexico City.

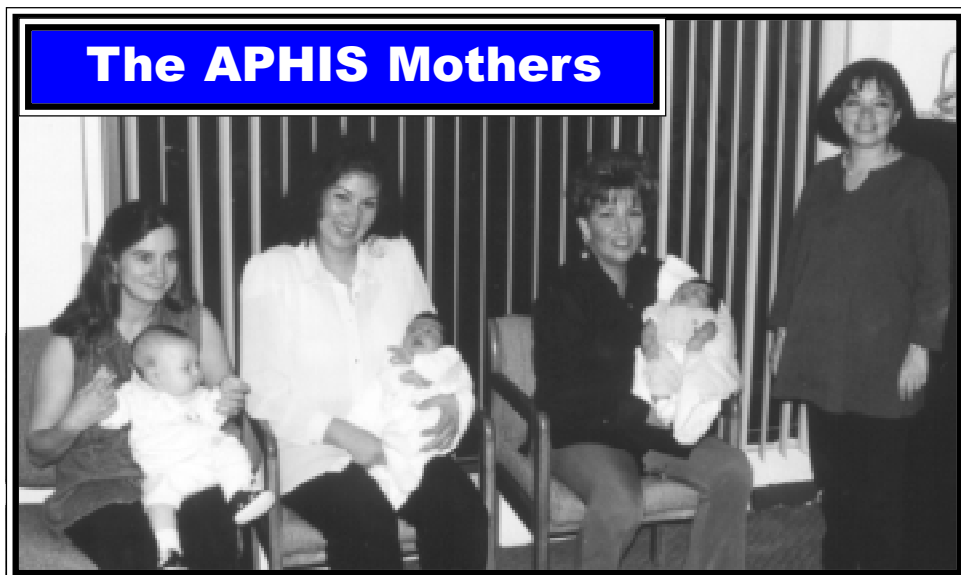
On the last moment of this edition we also received the information that Laura Mundo and Alejandro Perera's baby arrived safe and healthy on January 20. The 3 kg/45cm new born baby boy (***Axel Antonio***) is well and his mother is doing great at their new home in San Antonio, TX.



Tamara Belem



Axel Antonio



L to R: Theresa Boyle, Laura Avila, Monica Reyes and Laura Mundo with their babies



DID YOU KNOW THAT ARUBA?:

We are going to devote this section to each of the places where the Region is working. We shall start in alphabetical order; therefore Aruba is first on the list.

Bonbini Aruba:

Bonbini. In Papiamentu (the native language of Aruba), it means “welcome.” To a place where the weather is warm and sunny, and the people are exactly the same. A place where glorious white beaches and shamelessly luxurious resorts coexist in happy harmony with wild, rugged cliff, and herds of desert goats. A place where the trade winds seem to have picked up the worries of the world and carried them far, far out to sea.

Aruba lies at the heart of the southern Caribbean, seventeen miles off the coast of Venezuela and about 2.5 hours by air from Miami, Florida and within easy flying distance of other U.S. cities. The island is 19.6 miles long, and six miles across at its widest point, with a total area of 70 square miles.

Topography and vegetation are unusual for a Caribbean island. On the south and west coasts are miles of pristine white beaches that rank among the most beautiful in the world, rimmed by calm blue seas with visibility in some areas to a depth of a hundred feet. The northeast coast, along the windward shore, is rugged and wild. The interior is desert-like, with a variety of cacti and dramatic rock formations. The island's most famous trees are the watapana, or divi-divi trees, all permanently sculpted into graceful, southwest-bending shapes by the constant trade winds.

Aruba, is also the site where APHIS-IS-NACR has its newest passenger preclearance program. It became fully operational in April 17, 2000 when Aphis and US Customs joined US Immigration (already in place for the last 14 years) to form the most recent FIS program in the Caribbean.

One of the many functions of Aphis is to inspect passenger and crew baggage to detect for the presence of any restricted and/

or prohibited agricultural items, animal and animal by products which may be carried by our traveling customers. Items which are seized are further examined for pest finds. All interceptions are forwarded to the San Juan work unit for pest identification.

The IS staff has been very active in disseminating information of USDA's goals, mission and objectives to: airline, travel agencies, tour operators, local government, private sector, as well as, other entities. Our purpose is to create awareness to the traveling public. We believe that a passenger who is well informed becomes self regulating.

We are presently working with the Department of Foreign Affairs to extended our outreach efforts to all the industry.

Goals for the very near future are to establish a pest survey and fruit fly trapping program.

The Aruba staff is composed of the following professionals: PPQT William Thompson, PPQT Ronald Roberts, PPQT Achilles Perez, and OIC Jose M. Crespo.

To all we extended a warm invitation to visit us in ARUBA - THE HAPPY ISLAND!

Contact:

Jose M. Crespo

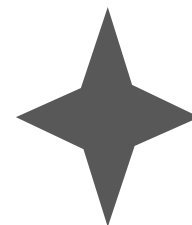
Tel. (297) 887-640

(297) 887-635

Celular (297) 949-131

Fax (297) 887-638

E-Mail: josemccrespo@setarnet.aw



LETTER FROM OUR CLIENTS:

** Carlos B. Gil and * Barbara R. Deane*

"Dear editor of NACR Highlights:

Here, at The GilDeane Group offices in Seattle, we are very glad to receive your quarterly publication. We examine it with interest in part because it keeps us in touch with an office-full of people that we've come to know and appreciate. Its good to see your photos from time to time. We were quite glad to see your Director, Dra. Elba Quintero in Washington DC recently.

I read Agustin Ramos and Alejandro Perera's "Excerpts from a History of Animal and Plant Health Trade Between the United States and Mexico, 1985-1999" with interest. I found it a very useful summary of trends.

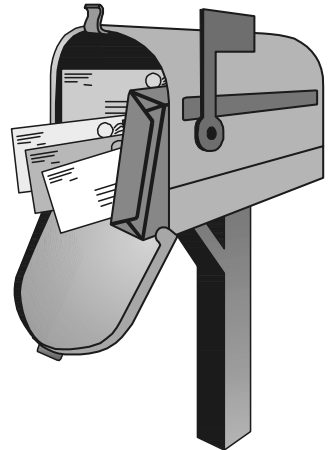
Please accept our warmest regards. Saludos a todos y felicidades!

* Carlos B. Gil, President

* Barbara R. Deane, Vice President

The GilDeane Group Inc.Seattle WA"

* Note: Carlos and Barbara were the trainers of two o tree courses to our Region few years ago



Books:

SEVENTEEN WAYS **to Eat a Mango**

In this section we want to comment about one book that has something about our work but at the same time something different to talk about, in this issue we want to comment about one book that I found in the bookstore: "Seventeen Ways to Eat a Mango" A Discovered Journal of Life on an Island of Miracles

Author: Joshua Kadison

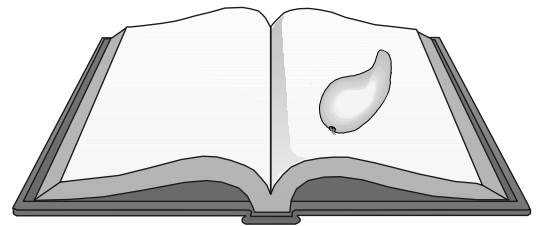
Publisher: Hyperion

Copyright: 1999

ISBN: 0-786-86457-5

List Price: \$21.95 (US),
 \$29.95 (Can)

144 pages



At first I bought this book thinking of the Mango Program, but, as soon as I began to read it I discovered that is neither a technical book, nor a cooking book but a life book.

"Tropical breezes, tropical storms, tropical plants, rocks, and people humidify the pages of this precious little book. And the sweet and sour juice of the mango seeps from the pages.

It's simple. Substitute "live" for "eat" and "life" for "mango," and you've got "Seventeen Ways to Live a Life." Which is exactly what Kadison is telling us here. There are numerous ways to experience your life, and many people are looking through lenses that are stuck in the same position throughout their lifetimes. Perhaps they don't realize that they can change their own view. All you need to do is to create and play with your attitude about the things that happen in your life. Change your perspective from time to time. Look at the same situation from several viewpoints. Here are a few ideas from the book:

- Way number one: Eating the Mango Where the Sky Begins
- Way number seven: Eating Mango Like a Child
- Way number eight: No Ordinary Mangoes, or How to Eat an Extraordinary Mango
- Way number ten: Mango with Salt of Tears

This book caught my attention in several ways. First, it was a gift from a friend who had previously given me a copy of Kadison's Painted Desert Serenade CD. The discovery of a book written by Kadison was a pleasant little surprise - he has a talent for saying things without actually saying them, with profound results. Secondly, the story is told in the style of a journal.

I'm a sucker for diaries, journals, and letters -- the form promises (and usually delivers) exciting insights and evokes the romance and adventure of accidentally discovering a pirate's buried treasure. And third, the story is written by hand and presented on weathered pages, which sustains the illusion. In addition, the mango is perhaps the best analogy for life. In India, the mango symbolizes love as well as friendship. Its flavor is a blend of other tropical fruits (peach, pineapple, and apricot) in the way that life is a blend of other parts of itself. Also, a mango tastes sweet and it tastes sour - again, like life.

This fruit is a powerful image indeed, and its influence is likewise apparent on the book's cover, which is an illustration of a branch, leaves, and two mangoes. The mangoes appear absolutely stunning in their subtlety and ability to make your mouth water. They look real, and I just want to touch them each time I see the cover. (Don't tell anyone, but after reading this book, I actually went to the grocery store and bought a fresh mango. Way number seven is my favorite - mmmm, good!)

I think Kadison meant for us to have fun with this story. There are probably seventeen ways to read Seventeen Ways to Eat a Mango and seventeen hundred ways to apply the seventeen ways. For example, the next time you want to try something different or want to think through a problem in an unusual way, try this: write the seventeen ways on seventeen different slips of paper, fold them up and put them in a bowl, mix them up, and draw one. Then do what it says, applying it to your situation. See what happens. For a real good time, do this two or three times with the same problem, and then create new ways of your own.

This will get you started.

If all else fails, go with your instincts. Get a mango, cut it open, bite into a slice and let the juice run down your chin. Now you're living a life!"



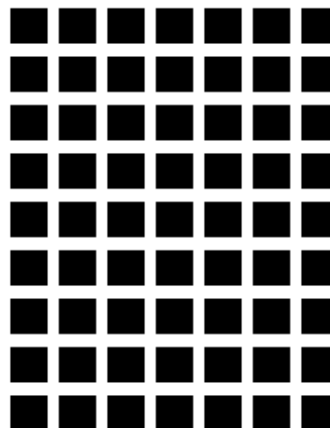
Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Learning Modules via the Internet

The completion of three SPS distance learning Modules are now available on the internet. These Modules contain explanations of various aspects of the World Trade Agreement (WTO) that have been simplified for easy understanding. Module One - is an introduction to the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Module Two - provides the key concepts necessary to understand how the United States implements regulations under the SPS agreements for plant and animal health; and Module Three - is an introduction to risk assessment. The learning Modules were designed to be used in sequence, as an introductory learning tool and can be accessed globally from the APHIS Home Page on:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/is/sps>. Inquiries may be directed to Douglas Barnett, Assistant Director, International Services, (301) 734-7550; or Linda Small, APHIS International Visitor Program (301) 734-7607.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge, knowledge is limited, imagination encircles the world"

Albert Einstein.



Glossary of "Government-speak"

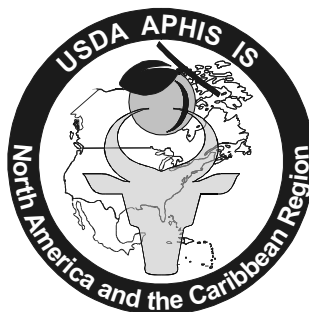
This glossary is intended to help you understand the many acronyms that pepper our speech in APHIS.

Common American Acronyms

AFS: American Field Service
AI: Avian Influenza
APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AQI: Agricultural Quarantine Inspection
ARS: Agricultural Research Service
CDFA: California Department of Food and Agriculture
EADC: Exotic Animal Disease Commission = CPA
EEE: Eastern Equine Encephalitis
FAS: Foreign Agriculture Service
FMD: Foot and Mouth Disease
FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service
FSN: Foreign Service National
FSO: Foreign Service Officer
FTAA: Free Trade Agreement of the Americas = TLC
GATT: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GIS: Geographic Information System
GPS: Global Positioning System
HC: Hog Cholera
IS: International Services
IS-OSS: International Services Operational Support Staff
ISLT: International Services Leadership Team
LPA: Legislative and Public Affairs
NACR: North America and the Caribbean Region
NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement = TLC
NAPPO: North American Plant Protection Organization
NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
OIE: International Office of Epizootics
PPD: Policy Program and Development
PPQ: Plant Protection and Quarantine
RMSES: Resource Management System and Evaluation Staff
RMS: Resource Management Support
TB: Tuberculosis
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
VEE: Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis
VS: Veterinary Services
WTO: The World Trade Organization = OMC

Common Mexican Acronyms

CPA: Exotic Animal Disease Commission = (EADC)
DGSA: Animal Health General Directorate
DGSV: Plant Health General Directorate
CONASA: National Council for Animal Health
CONASAG: National Commission for Animal and Plant Health
IICA: Interamerican Institute for Agricultural Cooperation
OMC: The World Trade Organization = WTO
SAGARPA: Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
SAGARPA-SA: SAGAR-Animal Health = DGSA
SAGARPA-SV: SAGAR-Plant Health = DGSV
TLC: The North American Free Trade Agreement = NAFTA
EMEX: Mexican Mango Exporters' Association
AMECAC: Mexican Citrus Exporters' Association



Glossary of People and Titles

In order to avoid excessive repetition of titles of the people that appear regularly in our bulletin, we are including this glossary of people and titles:

Craig Reed: APHIS Administrator
Angel Cielo: International Services Deputy Administrator
Elba Quintero: Regional Director, North America and the Caribbean Region
Peter Grosser: Assistant Regional Director
Thomas C. Schissel: Trade Specialist for Animal & Plant Health Issues
Scott Saxe: Regional Administrative Officer
Thomas J. Andre Jr.: Area I Director (Hermosillo, Son. Mex.)
Theresa Boyle: Area II Director (EADC)
Yvette Perez-Marcano: Area III Director
Carolyn Cohen: The Caribbean Area Director
Helena Gomez: Pre-Departure Program Officer in Charhe (Santo Domingo, R.D.)
Richard Pacer: Classical Swine Fever Program Director
Kelan Evans: Officer-in-Charge: Haiti
Gary Timmons: Officer-in-Charge: Nassau, Bahamas
Christopher Cobbs: Officer-in-Charge: Freeport, Bahamas
Carol Russell: Officer-in-Charge: Bermuda
Arthur Flores: Officer-in-Charge: Jamaica
Jose Crespo: Officer-in-Charge: Aruba
Mark Knez: Canada Area Director (Ottawa, Canada)
Tom Billak: Officer-in-Charge: (Vancouver, Canada)
Bruce Lewke: Officer in Charge (Montreal, Canada)
Officer in Charge (Toronto, Canada): Vacant
Agustin Ramos: Plant Health Specialist
Carmen Rodriguez: Animal Health Specialist
Alberto Cisneros: Avocado Program (Uruapan, Michoacan, Mex.)
Leo Charles: GIS Center

Mexican Counterparts

- Dr. Victor Manuel Villalobos Arambula: Undersecretary of Agriculture and Livestock of the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGAR)
- Dr. Javier Trujillo: Executive Director for National Commission for Animal and Plant Health Director (SAGAR)
- Dr. Juan Garza Ramos: General Director of Animal Health (SAGAR-DGSA)
- Dr. Jorge Hernandez Baeza: General Director of Plant Health (SAGAR-DGSV)
- Ing. Jorge Leyva: General Director of Phytozoosanitary Inspection at ports, airports and borders,
- Dr. Juan Gay: Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis National Campaign
- Dr. Cesar Villarreal: EADC Director
- Dr. Jorge Padilla Sanchez: Importation, Exportation, Zoosanitary Services and Verification Director
- Dr. Ricardo Flores: Zoosanitary Campaigns Director

"The NACR Highlights"

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Story ideas and letters may be submitted to USDA, APHIS, IS, North America and the Caribbean Region. Sierra Nevada # 115, Lomas de Chapultepec. C.P. 11000, México, D.F.

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